

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01873 091806Z
ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1873

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES TODMAN AND DUFFEY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, PA
SUBJ: CULTURAL INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 96982

1. IN HIS APRIL 14 SPEECH PRESIDENT CARTER STRESSED THAT A SINGLE U.S. POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN MAKES LITTLE SENSE. THIS WISE STATEMENT APPLIES PRECISELY TO MUCH NEEDED CULTURAL INITIATIVES.
2. WHAT IN THE CULTURAL FIELD MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR MEXICO, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA, DOES NOT APPLY TO PARAGUAY, HAITI, BOLIVIA, OR TO SOME OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE SO DIFFERENT THAT NO COHERENT PROGRAM CAN BE DEVELOPED TO FIT ALL OF LATIN AMERICA. INITIATIVES MUST BE DEVELOPED ACCORDIING TO THE STATE OF CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT IN EACH COUNTRY.
3. PARAGUAY IS BOTH ISOLATED FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN MAINSTREAM AND CULTURALLY STILL RATHER BACKWARD. IT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF U.S.-SPONSORED MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS IN THE PAST. REGIONAL SEMINARS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 01873 091806Z

OFFERED BY CU AND USIA ARE FAR TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR PARAGUAY'S NEEDS AND THE CANDIDATES WE OFFER ARE NOT ACCEPTED. THIS DOES NOT SURPRISE US BECAUSE THEY HAVE NEITHER THE SAME BACKGROUND NOR THE SAME POTENTIAL TO APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED IN THE SEMINARS ONCE THEY RETURN, AS DO CANDIDATES FROM MORE ADVANCED COUNTRIES.

4. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE AND UNPROFITABLE TO TRY TO ENGAGE THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT OR OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS, BECAUSE POLITICAL FAVORITISM IS SO ALL PERVASIVE THAT ONLY PARTY FAITHFULS WOULD BE SELECTED. MOREOVER, IT WOULD BE COUNTER TO U.S. INTERESTS TO BECOME OVER-IDENTIFIED WITH GOP PARTICULARLY IN CULTURAL AFFAIRS. PARAGUAYAN CREATIVE THINKERS, WRITERS, MUSICIANS AND OTHERS OF SUFFICIENT CALIBER TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO ANYTHING BUT THE MOST MODEST DOMESTIC CULTURAL ENDEAVORS, ARE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT.

5. THE MOST PROFITABLE CULTURAL INITIATIVES IN PARAGUAY WOULD BE TO:

A. INCREASE IV GRANTS TO PERMIT US TO SEND MORE MIDDLE-LEVEL PROFESSIONALS, SOCIAL WORKERS, TEACHERS OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS, AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS IN THE SOCIAL FIELD.

B. SUBSIDIZE TOP-NOTCH PERFORMERS TOURING IN THE AREA. POST CANNOT PAY PRICES THEY ASK AND THEREFORE WE SELDOM GET FIRST-RATE U.S. PERFORMERS.

6. UNDER THE PRESENT SETUP SMALL AND BACKWARD COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO U.S. CULTURAL INFLUENCE REALLY GET THE SHORT END OF THE STICK. I HOPE THIS WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN STRUCTURING YOUR LAUDABLE INITIATIVES.

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PAGE 03 ASUNCI 01873 091806Z

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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